ment Advisory Groups are bring formed in Directorate General of Technical Development since 1986 to render advice on the technology thrust made in various sectors of industry. Fourteen Technology Development Advisory Groups were constituted during 1986-1990. During 1991-92, eighteen such groups have been constituted. The duration of each Group is for a period of one year.

A list showing the names of eighteen Technology Development Advisory Groups is given in the statement.

**STATEMENT**

List of 18 Technology Development Advisory Groups constituted in Directorate General of Technical Development during 1991-92:

1. Technology Advisory Group on Technology Trends in Instrumentation.
2. Technology Advisory Group on Technology Trends in Medical Equipments.
3. Technology Advisory Group on Recombinent DNA based Products.
4. Technology Advisory Group on Electrical Industries.
5. Technology Development Advisory Group on Technology Trends in Rubber Goods Industries.
6. Technology Development Advisory Group on Technology Trends in Automobiles.
7. Technology Development Advisory Group on Technology Trends for Automation Industry.
8. Technology Development Advisory Group on Earth Moving Machinery including Construction Equipment Industry.
9. Technology Development Advisory Group on Technology Trends in Packaging & Packing materials.
10. Technology Development Advisory Group on Photonics/Laser Technology for Industrial Application.
11. Technology Development Advisory Group on Flexible Manufacturing Systems of Robotics.
12. Technology Development Advisory Group on Technology Trends in Industrial Machinery.
13. Technology Development Advisory Group on Ship Building and Ship Repair Industry.
14. Technology Development Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies in Pollution Control.
15. Technology Development Advisory Group on Trends in Materials Technology.
16. Technology Development Advisory Group on Tool Room Products.
17. Technology Development Advisory Group on Non-Ferrous Metals.
18. Technology Development Advisory Group on Technology for professional Electronics.

**Foreign investment in technical areas**

4579. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Manufacturers' Organisation has suggested that foreign investment should be encouraged only in high technical areas;

(b) if so, the details of other suggestions made by the Organisation;

(c) whether the Government have examined these suggestions; and

(d) if so, which of the these suggestions have been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The other suggestions include adequate and timely availability of finance, simplification of labour laws, doing away with the policy of registration and change in laws and regulations governing constitution of small enterprises.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the new Industrial Policy proposals for foreign investment in industries other than high priority industries are not eligible for automatic clearance but will require the prior clearance of Government. It has not been found possible to do away with the system of registration of small scle units. The other suggestions have been taken up with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

**Blending of Edible Oils**

4580. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allow private sector millers to blend various edible oils to be sold in small consumer packs;

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken; and

(c) the efforts being made for removing the prevailing disparity in prices of various oils in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Final notification in this regard has already been issued vide GSR 91 (E) dated 7th February, 92 of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

(c) Allowing the blending of edible oils is one of the measures designed to remove the prevailing disparity in the prices of various oils in the Market.

[*Translation*]

**Assistance for Hill Areas**

4581. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide several facilities to certain districts of every State which are located adjacent to hills by declaring them hill areas;

(b) if so, the nature of facilities provided;

(c) the names of such districts of Maharashtra which have been provided these facilities;

(d) whether the Government also propose to include other districts in hill areas; and